units under the Ordnance Factory Board. More than 18,000 specially prepared hand cancellers have already been supplied and efforts are continuously being made for providing more such improved and efficient hand cancellers. In bigger post offices, electrically-operated stamp cancelling machines are used. Franking machines have also been provided in main post offices to ensure clear and legible Postal marks for levying postage. At present, 37000 such franking machines are being used in post offices.

(b) and (c) Due to various factors like seasonal unusually heavy increase in letters posted, slackness on the part of the staff entrusted with this responsibility etc., and number of articles remain unstamped at the posting and delivery point. However, no precise data is available regarding the number of such letters. There is no evidence to indicate any large scale reuse of postage stamps which escape cancellation at the office of posting.

Supply of Canvass Bags

1720. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the requirement of each Postal Circle in relation to canvass bags every year and what is the cost of one canvass bag;

(b) whether the necessary supply of canvass bags was done in time to each Circle in 1992, 1993 and 1994; if so, how many canvass bags were supplied to each Postal Circle in the same period;

(c) whether Maharashtra Postal Circle has tallied its bag account for the year 1992, 1993, and 1994 with other Circles; if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Rakhi and Tilgul packets remained in the Mail Offices in Maharashtra for one to two weeks in 1994 due to non-availability of canvass bags; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Requirement of jute canvass bags of each Postal Circle for the year 1992, 1993 and 1994 is placed at Statement-I (*see* below). There are four types of jute canvass bags. The cost of each type of canvass bag at the last procurement year 1993-94 is as under:—

C-I	— Rs. 60.19 (1994)
C-III	— Rs. 36.22 (1994)
C-IV	— Rs. 35.17 (1994)
C-V	— Rs. 12.29 (1993)

(b) Yes, Sir except in 1994. Details are at statement-II (*see* below). 1994 supply was continued in 1995, details of which are at statement-III (*see* below).

(c) Maharashtra Circle has tallied the bag account for the year 1992, 1993 and 1994, under usual adjustments.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

Statement-I

Requirement of Jute Canvass Bag of each Circle for the year 1992, 1993, 1994.

S.No.	Name of Circle	1992	1993	1994
1.	Assam	24,000	40,000	33,150
2.	Andhra Pradesh	61,000	63,000	—
3.	Bihar	—	—	53,000
4.	Delhi	—	—	2,40,000
5.	Gujarat	—	1,61,000	63,850
6.	Karnataka	46,650	53,000	19,900
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—
8.	Kerala	24,000	32,000	20,000
9.	Madhya Pradesh	—	60,000	25,000
10.	West Bengal	1,00,000	1,10,000	1,25,000
11.	Haryana	91,000	—	17,000
12.	Maharashtra	98,950	4,00,000	2,12,000
13.	North Eastern	—	—	—
14.	Punjab	—	—	—
15.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—
16.	Orissa	—	—	25,000
17.	Rajasthan	1,42,500	85,000	34,000
18.	Tamil Nadu	—	1,00,,000	98,500
19.	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	69,500
	GRAND TOTAL:	5,88,100	11,04,000	70,35,000

Statement-II

Year-wise supply position i.e. upto March '95

S.No.	Name of Circle	1992	1993	1994
1.	Assam	24,000	40,000	21,057
2.	Andhra Pradesh	61,000	63,000	—
3.	Bihar	—	—	36,557
4.	Delhi	—	—	1,29,010
5.	Gujarat	—	1,61,000	28,574
6.	Karnataka	46,650	53,000	5,995
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—
8.	Kerala	24,000	32,000	11,050
9.	Madhya Pradesh	—	60,000	22,064

S.No.	Name of Circle	1992	1993	1994
10.	West Bengal	1,00,000	1,10,000	71,277
11.	Haryana	91,000	—	17,507
12.	Maharashtra	98,950	4,00,000	1,00,598
13.	North Eastern	—	—	—
14.	Punjab	—	—	—
15.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—
16.	Orissa	—	—	22,264
17.	Rajasthan	1,42,000	85,000	23,005
18.	Tamil Nadu	—	1,00,000	58,500
19.	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	34,061
	GRAND TOTAL:	5,88,100	11,04,000	5,76,510

Statement-III

Supply position of 1994 after Ist April, 1995

S.No.	Name of Circle	Total Supply Against Indent '94 as on 8.12.95
1.	Assam	22,093
2.	Andhra Pradesh	—
3.	Bihar	53,000
4.	Delhi	2,35,758
5.	Gujarat	49,550
6.	Karnataka	19,000
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	—
8.	Kerala	20,000
9.	Madhya Pradesh	25,000
10.	West Bengal	90,311
11.	Haryana	6,005
12.	Maharashtra	1,88,078
13.	North Eastern	—

14.	Punjab	—
15.	Himachal Pradesh	—
16.	Orissa	25,000
17.	Rajasthan	34,000
18.	Tamil Nadu	1,18,497
19.	Uttar Pradesh	67,523
	TOTAL:	9,53,815

'Telephone-on-Demand' Scheme Introduced by Hyderabad Telecom

1721. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hyderabad Telecom has introduced the 'Phone-on-Demand' Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this Scheme is on operation in other parts of the country;

(d) what is the number of such phones released in Hyderabad Telecom so far in 1995-96; and

(e) what other measures Hyderabad Telecome propose to clear the waiting list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir. However waiting list has considerably reduced in a number of exchange areas in Hyderabad due to increased availability of Telephones.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) No, Sir, However, National Telecom Policy 1994 envisages provision of telephone connections on demand all over the country by 1997.

(d) Question does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above. However, During normal course 28841 telephone connections have been provided so far in Hyderabad Telephone District during 95-96.

(e) The waiting list upto June '95 is proposed to be cleared by 31st March 1996 in Hyderabad Telephone District subject to timely availability of equipment and other resources.

Allocation of STD/ISD/PCO to Unemployed Handicapped Youth

1722. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are giving any preference to unemployed-handicapped youth in the allotment of STD/ISD/PCOs in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of guidelines issued to Telecom General Managers in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Preferential categories include unemployed-handicapped persons.

(b) The details of guidelines issued to the Heads of Telecom. Circles/Districts in this regard are given in the Statement.